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- BLACKROD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL -

- ANNUAL REPORT -

of the

- MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH -

for 1954.



To:- THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
BLACKROD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report  
on the Health and Sanitary Condition of the Blackrod Urban District  
for the year 1954.

### GENERAL STATISTICS

Areas (in acres) at 31.12.1954...	2392.4
Population - Census 1951 ...	3,151
Registrar General's Estimate of population mid 1954..	3,080
No. of Inhabited Houses at the end of 1954...	1,139
Rateable Value...	£14,702
Sum represented by a penny rate	£55. 14s.

### EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Population estimated at mid 1954 ... 3,080

		<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
<u>Live Births</u>	Legitimate	48	25	23
	Illegitimate	-	-	-
		<u>48</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>23</u>

Live birth-rate per 1,000 est. pip.:-

Crude rate 15.6; Adjusted rate - 15.3

<u>Still Births</u>	Legitimate	2	1	1
	Illegitimate	1	1	-
		<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>

Still birth-rate per 1,000 total births ... 59



Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total births	...	...	Nil
Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 <u>live</u> births	...	...	21
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 <u>live</u> births	...	...	21

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Deaths (all forms)	39	21	18

Mortality rates per 1,000 est. population

Total (all forms)	Crude rate	12. 7
	Adjusted rate	12. 8

Respiratory T.B. ... .. 0.32

Malignant neoplasms, etc. ... .. 2.27

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Deaths of Infants under			
1 year of age (legitimate)	1	-	1
(illegitimate)		Nil	
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks			
of age (legitimate)	1	-	1
(illegitimate)		Nil	



## CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1954.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	1
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	-
Malignant neoplasms	3	4
Vascular lesions of nervous system	-	3
Coronary Disease - Angina	4	2
Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	1
Other Heart Disease	6	4
Pneumonia	-	1
Bronchitis	1	-
Ulcer of Stomach and duodenum	1	-
Gastritis, Enteritis & Diarrhoea	1	-
Nephritis	1	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	1
Suicide	-	1
	<u>21</u>	<u>18</u>

Transferable deaths are included in the above.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE

There were only 7 cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year compared with 97 during the previous year. Of the cases notified, three were Scarlet Fever, two - Measles and two Non-pulmonary T.B.





CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED  
DURING 1954.

	Total Cases all ages	0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	45-	65 & over	Total deaths	Total cases removed to Hospital
Scarlet Fever	3			2	1						
Measles	2			1	1						
Non-Pul. T.B.	2				1	1					
	7			3	3	1				Nil	Nil



GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA  
(National Assistance Act, 1948)

No application received.

NURSING ARRANGEMENTS

There is a practising mid-wife in the district, and a nurse from Westhoughton comes into Blackrod daily.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION

For Infectious Diseases - By arrangement with the Divisional Health Office at Leigh, cases of Infectious Disease are sent to the nearest Hospital on the list that can accept accommodation.

IMMUNISATION

The immunisation of children against Diphtheria is now undertaken by the Divisional Medical Officer of Health, and the children from the Blackrod District receive treatment at Westhoughton. Special Transport is provided pending the provision of a clinic in Blackrod.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

The Public Health Staff consists of a part-time Medical Officer and a Sanitary Inspector who is also Surveyor.

A visiting nurse is provided by the County.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

Ambulance facilities for all cases are controlled by the Divisional Health Office, Leigh, and the needs of this district are met by the Ambulance Station at Horwich.

MORTUARY

The Mortuary, situated at the cemetery is sufficient for the needs of the district.



## SANITARY ADMINISTRATION 1952

### Water Supply

Source of supply - The Council have their own water undertaking which consists of a Catchment area from which surface and spring water is obtained and stored in an impounding reservoir. The catchment area is chiefly moorland in character and is situated in the Horwich U.D. The undertaking is adequate for the needs of the district and bulk supplies are provided to Wigan R.D.C. parish of Haigh and the Adlington U.D.C.

An adequate supply of water has been maintained throughout the year, and over the greater part of the year, the reservoir has been overflowing. 27 samples of water have been submitted for bacteriological analysis. 7 samples have been taken from the supply mains in the District, and the remaining 20 samples were taken from the feeders to the reservoir. Of the 7 samples taken from the supply main, 4 were free from bacteria and 3 samples gave a slight bacterial count. Of the 20 samples taken from the feeder streams, 6 were found to be free from bacteria and 14 with varying degrees of pollution indicated. This higher bacterial count of the feeder stream supplies, may in part, be due to a greater amount of cattle trespass over the Gathering Grounds, which is very difficult to control. The water prior to being passed into supply is chlorinated the plan being automatic in operation.

Tinned lead pipe is used as a precaution against plumbo solvent action on lead.

67 new dwellings have been connected to the public mains supply, and 33 condemned houses have been shut off from supply.

The total number of houses with a piped supply of water from public main is as follows:-

- a) direct to houses 1,064 - 3,150 persons.
- b) standpipes - Nil.



## Sewerage

The method used for the treatment of the crude sewage as it leaves the sewers is as follows. The effluent is first passed through retention tanks to allow settlement of the grosser solid matters and finally passed over land for final treatment on the broad irrigation principle. Adequate land is available for this method, but some improvement is required to obtain a better distribution of the effluent and to deal with storm water. The cleansing of septic tanks is carried out as required by direct labour, a mechanical pump and horse-drawn tank being used for this purpose.

## Food Inspection

Regular inspections are made at Shops and Food Preparing premises instruction being given on the safe handling of food, and the requirements of the Model Bye-laws.

One slaughter house has been licensed during the year and the following animals have been inspected since July when the slaughterhouse commenced to be used.

54 Beasts, 62 Sheep, 22 Pigs.

The following were condemned as unfit for human consumption -

2 Beasts; 1 Generalised T.B., 1 Casualty Heifer.

12 Lungs T.B.

13 Livers - Liver Fluke.

Diaphragm and Ribs - 2 Carcasses.

There are 10 premises registered for the sale of ice-cream although no ice-cream is manufactured in the District, only pre-packed ice-cream being sold.

49 samples of milk were taken from Producer and Producer/Retailers, and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for Bacteriological Examination. All samples were found to be satisfactory.





### Scavenging of Streets

The Lancashire County Council are the Highway Authority for Class I and II Roads and they scavenge and maintain same. Class III Roads are delegated to this Authority, and along with District Roads are maintained by the District Council. All roads are well scavenged at regular intervals, and are maintained in a fair condition.

### Sanitary Inspections during the year.

No. of premises visited - 243.  
Defects or nuisances discovered - 39.  
Notices served (Informal) - 39.  
Notices served (Statutory) - 21 - Section 93 P.H.A.-19;  
Section 45 - 2.  
Legal Proceedings - Nil.

### Shops - Offices

78 Inspections were made to shops in connection with the provisions of the Shops Act, 1950. 3 inspections were made to offices in connection with the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936.

### Offensive Trades

There are no offensive trades in operation in the District.

### Public Cleansing

Direct labour is used for the collection of domestic refuse, collections being made at weekly intervals. One motor vehicle is used for this purpose, the refuse being disposed of by tipping into disused colliery shafts and by reclaiming low lying areas of agricultural land. The separation and collection of paper or metals etc. from domestic refuse is not considered to be worthwhile, owing to the small amounts involved and the price obtained for salvaged materials. No provision is made for trade refuse.



## Schools

There are 3 Junior Schools and 1 Secondary Modern School in the District. The sanitary accommodation is adequate and satisfactory at all the schools. The playground surfaces at the Scot Lane and National Schools are uneven, dangerous and very unsatisfactory. At the National School the facilities for taking and preparing the serving of meals, is very unsatisfactory, no proper kitchen facilities being available. There are insufficient hand washing facilities at the school for the pupils.

## Bakchouses

There are 2 Bakchouses in the District. Both are inspected regularly, and are maintained in a fair condition.

## Factories - Workshops

Number in District - 7.

Rayon Processing	1.
Weaving Shed	1.
Joiner	1.
Clogger and Boot Repairer	1.

## Rodent Control

The public sewers are treated for rodents at 6 monthly intervals, and regular routine inspections are made of the premises in the district for rodents. Several small infestations found near domestic premises have been satisfactorily dealt with.

## Public Conveniences

There are two public conveniences provided in the District. One at the junction of Hill Lane, Chorley Road and Blackhorse Street, and one at the Junction of Manchester Road with Station Road.



### Closet Accommodation at end of 1954

Privy Middens	10
Closets attached to Middens	13
No. of dry ashpits	Nil
No. of fresh water closets	1,112
No. of waste water closets	Nil
No. of Refuse Bins	1,031

4 privy middens have been converted and 1 closed.

### Housing

The Local Authority have completed and tenanted 64 dwellings made up as follows -

- 16 - 1 Bedroom type Old persons Bungalows.
- 4 - 2 Bedroom Houses.
- 40 - 3 Bedroom Houses
- 4 - 2 Bedroom type Flats

There have also been 3 private dwellings completed and occupied during the year.

### Tabulated Requirements of the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925

1. The number of houses which on inspection were considered unfit for human habitation - 33.
2. The number of houses, the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers - 18.
3. The number of representations made to Local Authorities with a view
  - a) to the serving of Notices requiring the execution of works - Nil.
  - b) the making of demolition or closing orders - 33.
4. The number of notices served requiring the execution of works - Nil.
5. The number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices - Nil.



6. The number of demolition or closing orders made - 31.
7. The number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under Sub-Section 3 of Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 - 2.
8. The number of houses demolished - 11.

### Housing

Of the 31 houses with confirmed Demolition or Closing Orders only 5 are still occupied. The tenants of the remaining houses having been transferred to new Council houses or having made their own arrangements for transfer to other properties. Of the 5 houses still occupied, the authority have allocated one dwelling which is now nearing completion, to the Occupier of one of them, and the remaining Occupiers will be considered when suitable types of premises are available.

From the above figures it will be seen that the year under review had been one in which Housing has been the major work of the year, and it is pleasing to report that an additional 67 new dwellings have been completed. Also it has been found possible to make inroads into the removal of slum properties, 31 having been condemned and a further 2 reconditioned. The Council have a further 12 new dwellings in an advanced stage of construction, and this will complete the building programme on the present site. Should further building of new dwellings be undertaken it will be necessary to acquire land, lay roads, sewers, and all other services before the present site could be extended. Other land owned by the authority is also available for housing development, but would require all the above-mentioned services to be provided. No applications have yet been received for improvement or conversion grants under the 1949 or 1954 Acts.

The Local Authority have resolved to purchase 2 unfit houses to provide temporary accommodation in lieu of making Demolition Orders, in accordance with Section 3 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

The general housing position has improved considerably during the past year or two, there are now no known cases of statutory overcrowding of dwellings in the District. The Council's Housing Waiting List has also been considerably reduced, and the majority of urgent cases have been satisfactorily dealt with.





A general housing survey is now being made to classify the number of unfit houses in the District in readiness for submission to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

### Chief Sanitary Requirements of the District

The Clearance of all unfit dwellings, the improvement of the structurally fit but lacking in amenities, and repairs to the types which could be brought up to a fit standard for the time being, but which could not owing to structural defects, be brought up to the standard required for the improvement grant.

In conclusion I wish to thank the Council's Officers for their kind and valued co-operation during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,  
Yours faithfully,

L. UNSWORTH.

Medical Officer of Health.

Dalton House,  
Westhoughton.

23rd June, 1955.





